

Message Text

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FOL REPEAT NICOSIA 2252 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS

SUBJ: LEBANESE VISA APPLICANTS

REF: KA) STATE 190983, (B) NICOSIA 2112 (NOTAL)

1. IN JULY 132 NIVS AND 34 IVS ISSUED TO FORMER RESIDENTS
OF LEBANON. IN FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1976, 190
NIV REFUSALS FOR LEBANESE APPLICANTS AND NO IV REFUSALS.

2. AS DESCRIBED REF B, PONTIFICAL MISSION FOR PALESTINE
ON OWN INITIATIVE REGISTERED 170 DISPLACED LEVANESE AS
PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS FOR ENTRY TO US IN ACCORDANCE
WITH PROVISIONS OF INA SECTION 203 (A) (7). MISSION

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STOPPED REGISTRATION DUE TO UNCERTAIN OUTLOOK FOR

ESTABLISHMENT OF LEBANESE REFUGEE PROGRAM, BUT DIRECTOR TOLD CONSOFF RECENTLY THAT LEBANESE CONTINUE REQUEST MISSION'S ASSISTANCE IN IMMIGRATING TO US. DIRECTOR COULD NOT PROVIDE EXACT FIGURES, HOWEVER.

3. ESTIMATED 30 LEBANESE HAVE INQUIRED AT EMBASSY ABOUT POSSIBLE REFUGEE PROGRAM. POST KEEPS INFORMAL RECORD OF LEBANESE WHO EXPRESS SERIOUS INTEREST IN IMMIGRATION. APPROXIMATELY 30 OF THESE PROSPECTIVE IV APPLICANTS WILL PROBABLY BE UNABLE QUALIFY FOR STATUS. THESE PERSONS DO NOT CALL THEMSELVES "REFUGEES" WHEN DISCUSSING PLANS WITH CONSULAR EMPLOYEES, BUT THEY WOULD READILY REGISTER FOR REFUGEE ENTRY PROGRAM IF AVAILABLE.

4. CONSOFF BELIEVES MOST OF 190 LEBANESE REFUSED NIVS WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EITHER TEMPORARY SAFEHAVEN OR REFUGEE PROGRAM IF POSSIBLE. FEW APPEAR DESTITUTE, BUT UNSUCCESSFUL NIV APPLICANTS HAVE LITTLE CHANCE TO OBTAIN WORK PERMIT IN CYPRUS AND HOTEL/HOUSING SPACE IS SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE. NIV APPLICANTS ARE GENERALLY MIDDLE CLASS OR WORKING CLASS ARMENIANS WHO HAVE \$1,000-3,000 SPENDING MONEY. MOST HAVE US RELATIVES WILLING TO GUARANTEE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AS LONG AS NECESSARY, BUT STRENGTH OF APPLICANTS' TIES IN LEBANON VERY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE. SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF NIV APPLICANTS ARE SINGLE MEN AGED 20-35 WHO HAVE BEEN UNEMPLOYED MANY MONTHS.

5. TO DATE, FEW LEBANESE VISA APPLICANTS APPEAR IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF REFUGEE ENTRY PROGRAM, BUT CONSOFF DOES NOT HAVE FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF 170 PERSONS REGISTERED AS REFUGEES WITH PONTIFICAL MISSION FOR PALESTINE. SOME TYPE OF TEMPORARY SAFEHAVEN PROGRAM, HOWEVER, MIGHT BE ATTRACTIVE AND APPROPRIATE FOR MAJORITY OF NIV APPLICANTS.

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